



February 7, 2020

Board of Directors
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
1904 Third Ave., Suite 105
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Proposed Clean Fuels Standard

Dear Chair Roberts and Members of the Board:

King County and the cities of Burien, Mercer Island, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, and the Port of Seattle are commenting jointly on the proposed regional Clean Fuels Standard put forth by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. We are providing these comments as elected leaders representing nearly 500,000 King County residents.

We would like to offer our support for the proposed Clean Fuels Standard. We support this proposal as it reduces transportation-related carbon emissions, improves air quality and health for residents, and spurs the development of a Washington-based clean energy economy, particularly in biofuels production. We urge the Agency to prioritize equity for low-income communities and a just transition for those workers impacted by the rule.

Confronting climate change and accelerating the transition to a clean energy economy are top priorities for the King County-Cities Collaboration (K4C). The K4C is a coalition of local governments – King County, 16 cities, and the Port of Seattle – that set a shared goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050. The jurisdictions in the K4C represent nearly 1.6 million residents, or 80 percent of King County's total population. The members of the K4C work together to develop solutions that protect the health and well-being of our residents and natural environment, while ensuring an equitable transition to a clean energy economy.

Transportation related emissions make up 32 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions in King County. With the passage of the Clean Energy Transformation Act that charts a path to 100 percent clean electricity supplies by 2045, we need to take bold action to address the transportation sector. We have partnered to support increased mobility options that reduce emissions, including trails for walking, biking, and rolling, as well as dedicated lanes and transit centers that support King County Metro, making transit faster and easier.

In addition to reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, clean fuels offer health benefits to residents of King County, particularly for those communities who live near highways and heavily travelled roads. The Washington State Department of Ecology has developed the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map, which shows a strong link between low income communities and environmental health hazards. Cleaner fuels will reduce particulates and improve the health of these vulnerable communities.

A clean fuels standard would also help to draw investment to Washington State for clean fuels production and accelerate public investment in cleaner fleets.

Previously, we have joined together to offer our support for enactment of this policy at a state level, an effort we continue to support. Acknowledging the scale of transportation-related emissions, we stand in support of regional action in the event the state does not move this critical policy forward.

We encourage the Agency to consider additional clarification to the rule that we believe would make it stronger and more equitable. Potential cost increases in the price of gas are a big concern for many residents, especially those who are low income or drive long distances to reach their jobs or access services. We encourage the Agency to implement additional cost containment measures or mechanisms that reduce the cost and volatility of credits and help maintain a liquid and stable credit market.

Thank you for the opportunity to advance the health and well-being of our residents through the improvement in air quality from a clean fuels standard. We are ready to work with suppliers, communities, and other stakeholders to support and foster an equitable clean fuels economy that creates family wage jobs and protects the financial resilience and health of King County residents.

Sincerely,



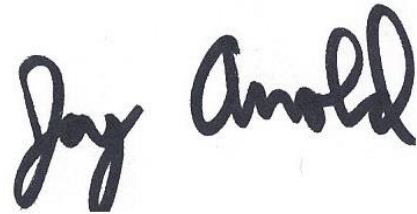
Dow Constantine
King County Executive



Peter Steinbrueck
President, Port of Seattle Commission



Nancy Tosta
Councilmember, City of Burien



Jay Arnold
Deputy Mayor, City of Kirkland



Benson Wong
Mayor, City of Mercer Island



Will Hall
Mayor, City of Shoreline



Matt Larson
Mayor, City of Snoqualmie